

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method of delegating signing of predetermined data by a given one of M first members mandated by N second members, M and N being integers of which one is equal to 1 and the other is at least equal to 2, the given first member having a terminal ~~containing~~ including first information on said given first member, said method comprising the following steps:

- reading from said terminal first information on said M first members and second information on said N second members included in delegation means ~~from said terminal~~ responsive to a first identifier of said given first member included in said first information and transmitted by said terminal to said delegation means,

- applying predetermined data, said first information, said second information, and a first private key of said given first member to a cryptographic algorithm ~~implemented~~ included in said terminal to produce a signature, and

- transmitting said predetermined data, said first information, said second information, and said signature to any user terminal interested in said predetermined data.

2. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said second information on a second member comprises at least an identifier of said second member.

3. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said second information on a second member further comprises a public key of said second member.

4. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said second information on a second member further comprises an electronic certificate of said second member.

5. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said first information on a first member comprises an electronic certificate of said first member.

6. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said integer M is equal to 1 and said integer N is at least equal to 2.

7. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said integer N is equal to 1 and said integer M is at least equal to 2.

8. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said M first members and said N second members constitute a group of members.

9. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1 comprising loading predetermined data and a signature program including at least part of said cryptographic algorithm from at least one server connected to said terminal of said given first member before verification of said predetermined data by said given first member.

10. (New) An apparatus for delegating signing of predetermined data, the apparatus comprising:

a given one of M first members for delegating the signing; the M first members being arranged to be responsive to N second members for mandating the signing by the M first members, where M and N are integers of which one is equal to 1 and the other is at least equal to 2, the given first member having a terminal ~~containing~~ including first information on said given first member;

a delegation arrangement for reading from said terminal first information on said M first

members and second information on said N second members, the delegation arrangement being arranged to be [[-]]responsive to a first identifier of said given first member included in said first information and transmitted by said terminal to said delegation arrangement,

said terminal including a cryptographic algorithm arranged to be responsive to the predetermined data, said first information, said second information, and a first private key of said given first member to produce a signature, and

a transmitter of said predetermined data, said first information, said second information, and said signature to any user terminal interested in said predetermined data.

11. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said second information on a second member comprises at least an identifier of said second member.

12. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said second information on a second member further comprises a public key of said second member.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said second information on a second member further comprises an electronic certificate of said second member.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said first information on a first member comprises an electronic certificate of said first member.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said integer M is equal to 1 and said integer N is at least equal to 2.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said integer N is equal to 1 and said integer M is at least equal to 2.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said M first members and said N second

members constitute a group of members.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising at least one server connected to said terminal of said given first member for loading into the cryptographic algorithm predetermined data and a signature program including at least part of said cryptographic algorithm before verification of said predetermined data by said given first member.

19. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the algorithm concatenates the predetermined data, the first information, the second information and the first private key to produce the signature.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the algorithm is arranged for concatenating the predetermined data, the first information, the second information and the first private key for producing the signature.